

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

A. Remarks regarding amendments to the Specification

A Substitute Specification was prepared because of the numerous changes made.

B. Remarks regarding amendments to the Claims

All pending original claims (1-7) have been canceled, and new claims 20-49 added. Claim 20 is a generic apparatus claim whose scope covers all the apparatus embodiments disclosed in the Specification as originally filed.

C. Reply to rejection of claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Becker '898

Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German published application DE 2654898 to H. Becker ("Becker '898").

Becker '898 discloses a backing strip made of aluminum foil, synthetic fiber or paper. One side of the strip is coated with an adhesive and covered with a protective film. The other side is coated with a wax layer which provides a low-friction running surface for a ski when, after removing the film, the strip is adhesively applied to the ski's underside.

The Examiner was correct in rejecting claim 1 (and depending claims 2 and 3) as being anticipated by Becker '898 because claim 1 does not recite that the support surface has a surface consisting of a low-friction material according to the invention.

The Examiner was incorrect in rejecting claim 7 as being anticipated by this reference because claim 7 recites the combination of (a) a board whose underside has attached thereto "stick-on sheeting.... having a low-friction durable layer for engaging in sliding contact with" (b) a "low-friction durable sheeting being supported by and in contact with [a] support surface." Becker '898 does not teach laying a low-friction synthetic surface over snow.

D. Reply to rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Becker '898 in view of Slagle '260

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker '898 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,180,260 to F. Slagle ("Slagle '260").

Slagle '260 is directed to a training device for developing balancing skills needed for skiing. A user straps his feet to an inclined board in a position which simulates heading down hill. The board is unstable laterally due to an attached pivot member at its lower end. There is no teaching of the user sliding down the board and no mention of a low-friction support surface. Therefore this reference is totally irrelevant to claim 4 which is directed to a "support surface [with] low-friction durable sheeting for contacting...stick-on sheeting."

E. Reply to rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner was correct. However since claim 6 is canceled the rejection is moot.

III. CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicant believes that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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